

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell, Eliza Symonds Bell, Carrie Bell, June 5, 1870, with transcript

Copy of a letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his parents and Carrie. 13 South Charlotte Street, Edinburgh, June 5th, 1870. Dear Papa, Mama and Carrie:

I have been so busy with pupils and one thing and another that I have had no time to write fully to you. Mr. Anderson has written to you about the house — and has sent an advertisement of it so I need say nothing about that. Mr. Pass, Mr. Devine, and a stranger have inquired here about it — I did no more than show it, referring them for all other particulars to Mr. Anderson.

Further accounts have come in. Two of about one pound, one of two pounds (Kerr's) and Dr. Wilson's of £15 (for 77 visits made at different times). Do you not think there should be some advertisement inserted for all claimants to send in by a certain date — and all owing money to make payment at once. Mr. Anderson suggests this. (Creditors cannot demand payment for six months).

I have informed several friends that I am prepared to receive offers privately for the piano. Mr. Montin [???] (how is his name spelt) told me the original cost of the instrument was 55 guineas — and that Melly had it for £40 (£10 of which are unpaid). He says that however hard the instrument may have been worked it cannot be worth less than £30 now. I have liberty to refer friends to him. I suspect that Mr. Maclaren is thinking of it — perhaps for Mrs. Ross. I should be glad to know from Carrie what is the lowest sum to accept. A great many of Melly's conjuring apparatus was borrowed from the Richardsons.

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Richard has selected his own things but confessed there were not nearly all had I not better present him with the whole of the conjuring things in lieu of what he may have lost. Is the music Melly's or Mrs. Nauman's. If his — it might be as well to give some of it to my cousins — as it will fetch comparatively nothing at a sale. Might I put an anonymous advertisement in the Scotsman about the piano .

The blankets are not washed yet. They are to be done tomorrow . I received payment from the class of gentlemen yesterday morning for # d of a course of lessons — this being £1..19..0 instead of £5 odds. My new pupil payed yesterday £3..3..0 for six lessons. It is likely he will take the whole course — although he won't need it. He can make [???] and [???] perfectly now. I have thought it might be a good thing for Mary if she could take some pupils after we have gone. Uncle has taken to the idea. She might go out to pupils' houses or take a room somewhere. I have commenced giving her lessons and seeing what she already knows — and she is with me when I give all lessons at Charlotte Street. What do you think of the idea. I think she is a very clever girl — and might be able to manage — if she makes up her mind to be confident. What do you think of the idea. I should be glad to be authorized by Carrie what to do about the furniture, etc. I trust you are all bearing up well.

With much love.

Yours affectionately, A. Graham Bell. Professor A. M. Bell.

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Note on envelope: Uncle thinks the best plan would be to get Lyon & Turnbull or some Auctioneer to make an offer for the whole of the furniture — instead of having it sold at the house. AGB.